

Appl. No. 09/755,353
Atty. Docket No. 8387&
Amdt. dated 11/18/2004
Reply to Office Action of 05/19/2004
Customer No. 27752

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (*Currently amended*) A method of conducting consumer product research, comprising the following steps:

(a) configuring a mock environment having infrastructure to enable a consumer to interact with a product to be tested as in a corresponding real environment so as to test a said product in a manner including interaction with said product in a desired context;

(b) placing at least one consumer within said mock environment for testing said product; and

(c) collecting information relating to said at least one consumer's interaction with said product during testing of said product, wherein said step of collecting information comprises collecting information with at least one device.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1, said mock environment further comprising a plurality of areas within a simulated house.

3. (Original) The method of claim 2, wherein at least one consumer is placed within an area conforming to the desired context for testing said product.

4. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of collecting information upon completion of testing said product.

5. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of broadcasting said information during testing of said product.

6. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of analyzing said information.

7. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said information is feedback from said consumer.

8. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said information is quantitative data measured from interaction between said consumer and said product.

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9. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of screening a pool of candidates to become a consumer panel for testing a desired product.
10. (Original) The method of claim 9, wherein said mock environment is configured to match the demographics of said consumer panel.
11. (Original) The method of claim 9, wherein said consumer panel is configured to match said mock environment.
12. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said mock environment is configured for hosting a desired event during which said product is tested.
13. (Original) The method of claim 7, wherein said consumer feedback is recorded audiovisually.
14. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said product is controlled by a third party.
15. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein a third party controls said product to simulate operation of said product in said mock environment through control of a third party.
16. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said mock environment is a commercial establishment.
17. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said product is a service.
18. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said product is a form of communication.
19. (Previously presented) The method of claim 9, wherein said consumer panel is utilized to test a plurality of products within said mock environment.
20. (Original) A facility for conducting consumer product research, comprising:
 - (a) at least one mock environment configured for testing a product in

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Atty. Docket No. 8387&
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Customer No. 27752

a desired context, wherein said mock environment comprises an infrastructure to enable a consumer to interact with a product to be tested as in a corresponding real environment;
and

(b) at least one device for collecting information during testing of said product in said mock environment.

21. (Original) The facility of claim 20, said mock environment further comprising at least one area in a simulated house.

22. (Original) The facility of claim 20, said mock environment further comprising an area in a simulated commercial establishment.

23. (Original) The facility of claim 20, further comprising an area separate from said mock environment for remotely controlling said information collecting devices.

24. (Original) The facility of claim 20, further comprising an area separate from said mock environment for directly viewing product testing therein.

25. (Original) The facility of claim 20, said information collecting devices further collecting information after testing of the product in a separate setting.

26. (Original) The facility of claim 20, wherein said mock environment is configured for a particular consumer profile.

27. (Original) The facility of claim 20, wherein a particular consumer profile is matched with said mock environment.

28. (Original) The facility of claim 20, wherein said mock environment is configured for hosting a specified event.

29. (Original) The facility of claim 20, wherein said mock environment is configured for testing a prototype device.

Appl. No. 09/755,353
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30. (Original) The facility of claim 20, wherein said mock environment is constructed with infrastructure that is configurable for testing of a given product.

31. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein said information is collected from at least one device selected from the group consisting of audio devices, video devices, and sensors.